

WASHINGTON

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

1. Name

historic Pulaski Park and Fieldhouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1419 West Blackhawk Street

not for publication

city, town Chicago

vicinity of

congressional district

8TH

state Illinois

code 012

county Cook

code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other: recreation

4. Owner of Property

name City of Chicago Park District

street & number 320 North Clark Street

city, town Chicago

vicinity of

state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cook County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Chicago

state Illinois

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Structures
in Chicago—West Town

has this property been determined eligible? yes no
JANUARY 29, 1981

date 1972

federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Department of Conservation

city, town Springfield

state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pulaski Park fieldhouse, constructed in 1912, is a rectangular tudor revival brick masonry structure with two symmetrical projections on the South. It occupies a 3.8 acre site bounded on the north by Blackhawk street; on the south by Potomac Avenue; on the east by Noble Street and on the west by Cleaver Street. The exterior facade is broken up by dormer windows, tudor arched windows and ribbon windows, projecting bays and wooden tudor ornamentation. The roof is a complex steep gable with flared eaves originally covered with tile, now shingle.

The principle entrance is at the asymmetric north facade, the focal point of which is a three story tower. The south facade with its projecting wings embraces and encloses the park. The first floor on this facade consists of a loggia, above which are second story tudor windows.

In plan, the building consists of a 50' x 71' assembly room with a 20' x 32'6" stage with a high arched ceiling; 2 gymnasiums each 42' x 77' with balconies providing separate facilities for both men and women; a library; and shower/locker facilities. In addition, the second floor has a children's playroom and the third floor contains a lecture room and three offices.

The park originally accomodated a children's playfield, bandstand, swimming pool, sunken garden, and benches for seating, all surrounded by a curb wall and iron fence. Alterations included:

- 1921 extensions to children's playfield by the demolition of bandstand and pergolas in the sunken music courts and gardens.
- 1927 construction of new concrete walks
- 1931 repainting of buildings and rehabilitation of natatorium, construction of new park walks, installation of a new skaters floor
- 1936 general rehabilitation, sidewalks
- 1937 baseball backstop and landscaping
- 1938 horseshoe court construction, new concrete tennis courts
- 1939 swimming pool entrance, general rehabilitation
- 1940 - 1981 general rehabilitation/maintenance

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				recreation

Specific dates 1912 Builder/Architect W. C. Zimmerman

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Pulaski Park Fieldhouse is significant as a fine example of recreation architecture, and as an example of community planning for open space.

This park complex designed in 1912 by William Carby's Zimmerman was an outcome of the progressive movement. It was created out of legislation passed by the Illinois General Assembly on 10 June 1909 entitled "An Act to Enable Park Commissioners to Issue Bonds to Raise Funds for the Acquisition and Improvement of Small Parks and Pleasure Grounds and to Provide a Tax Payment for the Same."¹

Parks and open space in both urban and industrial areas were viewed by the West Chicago Park Commissioners² as sources of "...openness of the rural environment to the cities' congested neighborhoods", providing "...relief from the noise and bustle of city life..."³ In April 1910, the commissioners voted to create as many new small parks as possible. Discussions, considering alternative park locations,⁴ took into account population density, the number of children in the neighborhood, and the ethnic mix. The commission desired to establish these parks in communities inhabited predominantly by recent immigrants.⁵

On 7 February 1910, the West Chicago Parks Commissioners selected a number of park sites including Pulaski which was then known as Park #5. Pulaski Park fulfilled the criteria selection well. It was located in a predominantly Polish community with 1200 children in one of the most densely populated districts in the city (1200 people were housed in ninety buildings on this 3.8 acre site.)⁶ The park was named Pulaski after Casimir Pulaski, Polish general who lost his life while serving as a Brigadier-General at the Battle of Savannah on 29 December 1778.⁷

On November 8th of the following year, the park commissioners passed an ordinance calling for acquisition by condemnation. Between February 24 and July 22, 1912, the commissioners purchased 43 sites, involving 4 condemnation cases, for the park.⁸

Prior to construction of the Pulaski Fieldhouse in 1912, two individuals, Klimek and Zagrzebski, filed suit in the Superior Court (Superior Court No. 296272) to prevent construction. The injunction was refused and construction began on December 12, 1912 and was completed in 1914.⁹

Architecturally, this building is significant being an example of the "Chicago Type" of recreation centers.¹⁰ It was the largest of such facilities which offered year round indoor and outdoor recreation, library, lectures, and social halls. These centers were each to be unique in design; yet offer similar activities. For example: most of these recreational facilities show Prairie style influences in such elements as their strong horizontality and banded windows. However, two exceptions to this trend may be noted in both the Pulaski and Humbolt Park Fieldhouses, which employ tudor elements. Of these, Pulaski Park is a stronger example of the Tudor style. Pulaski Park Fieldhouse offered many activities including training in English, Americanization, and citizenship.¹¹

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Continuation sheet #8 Significance

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Offering the many services, Pulaski Park soon became a center for the Polish community in the neighborhood.

William Carbys Zimmerman

W. Carbys Zimmerman was licensed to practice architecture on September 24, 1897. From 1905 until 1913, Zimmerman served as state supervising architect, during which he was responsible for the design of the Peoria State Hospital in Bartonville, the Illinois Supreme Court Building in Springfield, and the Physics Building in Urbana.¹² W. C. Zimmerman was with the firm of Flanders and Zimmerman, and later, Zimmerman, Saxe, and Zimmerman.¹³ His works were numerous and diverse, and included such residential, educational, commercial and recreational designs. These included: the Illinois State Penitentiary in Joliet; Advertising Building at 119 W. Madison, Chicago, and the Inter Ocean Building at 57 W. Monroe, Chicago.

1. Proceedings of the Board of West Chicago Park Commissioners, Tuesday, February 3, 1914 p. 5696.
2. The West Side Parks were created on April 26, 1869 pursuant to an Act of Legislature dated February 27, 1869 and in 1934 merged with Lincoln Park District, the North-west Park District and the South Park District to form the Chicago Park Commission.
3. A Century of Progress, West Chicago Park Commissioners, 1937, p. 2.
4. Proceedings of the Board of West Chicago Park Commissioners, November 29, 1910 pp. 6225-6227.
5. Ibid.
6. Pulaski Park Summary, West Chicago Park District.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. West Chicago Park Commissioners, proceedings January 17, 1913, p. 8312.
10. Recreation Centers, Playgrounds and Swimming Pools of the West Chicago Park Commissioners, West Park Board, 1919 p. 13.
11. Ibid. pp. 4-79.
12. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects Deceased. 1956, S.V. Zimmerman, William Carbys.
13. Who Was Who in America, Vol. I, S. V. Zimmerman, William Carbys.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.8

Quadrangle name CHICAGO LOOP

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 16 445000 4639320
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Area bounded by Blackhawk Street, Potomac Avenue, Noble Street and Cleaver Street.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Urbas, Architectural Coordinator

organization Department of Conservation

date May 15, 1981

street & number 405 East Washington

telephone 217/762-3340

city or town Springfield

state Illinois 62706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title Director, Ill. Dept. of Conservation date 6/23/81

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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1. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects Deceased, 1956.
2. A Century of Progress. Chicago: 1937, West Chicago Park Commissioners.
3. Proceedings of the Board of the West Park Commissioners. Chicago: West Chicago Park Commissioners.
4. Pulaski Park Summary. Chicago: West Park Board.
5. Recreation Centers, Playgrounds and Swimming Pools of the West Chicago Park Commissioners. Chicago, 1919.
6. Who Was Who in America, Vol. I.

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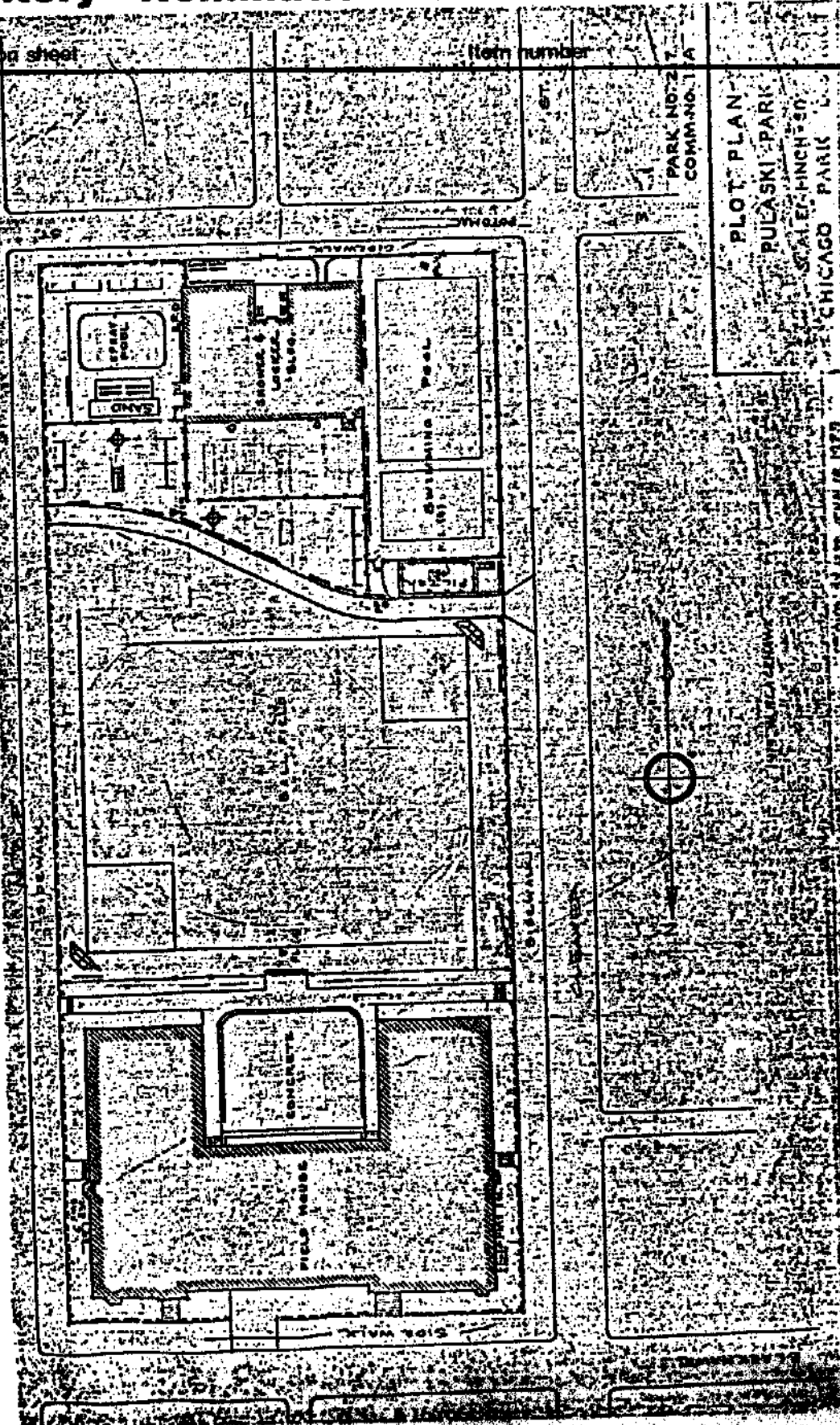
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Continuation sheet

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PLOT PLAN
PULASKI PARK
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"
CHICAGO PARK DIST.

PARK NO. 27
COMM. NO. 15A

DATE: 11 SEP. 1978

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered AUG 13 1981

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Rosenwald Apartment Building	Chicago Cook County
Pulaski Park and Fieldhouse	Chicago Cook County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Alan Dixon
Honorable Harold Washington
Honorable Dan Rostenkowski

For further information, please call the National Register at (202) 245-6401.

272-3504

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